

blood flow is interrupted to the brain, either by a blood clot or the breaking of a blood vessel.

I urge my colleagues and constituents to learn about the risks and warning signs associated with stroke, and to join me in honoring the seven million stroke survivors, their caregivers and families in recognition of this World Stroke Day.

HONORING RYAN HOSFORD

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 2, 2011

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Ryan Hosford. Ryan is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 395, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Ryan has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Ryan has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Ryan has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Ryan Hosford for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

ANNOUNCING RECIPIENTS OF THE INAUGURAL CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COMMENDATION FOR THE THIRD DISTRICT OF TEXAS—GEORGE “ROBBIE” ROBINSON

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 2, 2011

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to announce before my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives the names of eleven distinguished military veterans and community servants who call the Third District of Texas home. For their selfless service and dedication to their neighbors and nation, the following individuals have been selected as recipients of the inaugural Congressional Veteran Commendation:

Captain George “Robbie” Robinson spent a 20-year career serving our nation in the U.S. Navy. After graduating from the NROTC program at Princeton University, Robinson received a four-year Marshall Scholarship from the United Kingdom where he obtained a Ph.D. in civil engineering. He put the degree to good use with the Navy Civil Engineer Corps from 1961–1981.

During these years, Robinson was responsible for the planning, construction, and maintenance of 51 U.S. Naval bases in the Pacific and Indian Oceans. He also received the Navy Commendation Medal with Combat V for his leadership of a Seabee Company in Vietnam which supported the U.S. Marines. Robinson

later assumed command of a Seabee Battalion of over 1,200 men, the only such battalion to be commended by the U.S. Congress.

In 1974, Robinson became the third Naval Officer ever to be named a White House Fellow. Upon his retirement, he was honored with the Legion of Merit.

Robinson went on to have a distinguished career as a corporate executive, manager, planner and engineer. He has maintained an active presence in the community by participating in a wide range of civic, professional and religious organizations. Among his many achievements in the community are leadership positions within the American Cancer Society, Plano Economic Development Foundation, Plano Junior League, Plano Symphony Orchestra, and University of Texas at Dallas. For his extraordinary leadership, Robinson's hometown of Plano, Texas has honored him as Citizen of the Year.

It is my pleasure to name Robbie Robinson a recipient of the inaugural Congressional Veteran Commendation for the Third District of Texas.

IN HONOR OF MR. JOHN A. PESTOVIC, SR.

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 2, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Mr. John A. Pestovic, Sr., who is being honored by the Polish Legion of American Veterans at the 52nd Annual Veteran and Women of the Year Recognition Banquet.

Mr. Pestovic was born on November 28, 1940 in Cleveland, Ohio. He attended Lawn Elementary and Tremont Elementary Schools. After graduating from Lincoln High School in 1958, Mr. Pestovic joined the Army. Mr. Pestovic joined the 86th Engineer Battalion at Fort Dix New Jersey once he was a properly trained electrician. In 1959, he was deployed to Seoul, Korea with the Area Engineers of Headquarters Detachment Seoul. Mr. Pestovic spent a year abroad and then returned to Missouri to lead a group of electricians handling fire ranges. February 12, 1962 marked the end of Mr. Pestovic's service; he left service with the rank of Specialist E-5.

From the early sixties until his retirement in May of 2000, Mr. Pestovic worked with AT&T and Ohio Bell. Since 1982, Mr. Pestovic has been an active member of Post # 30 of the Polish Legion of American Veterans.

Since 1963, Mr. Pestovic has been married to Marene Skufca. They are the proud parents of two sons, Edward and John Jr. John Jr. served America, like his father, in the U.S. Navy and now works at the Pentagon. Edward is an architect in Texas.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in congratulating Mr. John A. Pestovic as he is being honored at the Polish Legion of American Veterans' 52nd Annual Veteran and Women of the Year Recognition Banquet.

TERMINATING PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION CAMPAIGN FUND AND ELECTION ASSISTANCE COMMISSION

SPEECH OF

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 1, 2011

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my opposition to H.R. 3463, which would strip funding from the public financing of presidential campaigns and the Election Assistance Commission. I wholeheartedly believe that we should be looking closely at faults in our electoral system, but this bill is a step in the entirely wrong direction.

Make no mistake—our election system is in crisis. Money has a corrupting influence at every level in the process. Candidates must constantly raise more and more money to remain competitive, and large corporations such as insurance, oil or other special interest groups are able to exert a substantial influence. It is increasingly hard for middle class or low income individuals to have their voices heard.

This bill would only worsen the problem. Matching funds are intended to give small donors a more effective voice by doubling the impact of dollars given by those who can only afford to contribute small amounts of money. It gives presidential candidates a substantial reason to focus on small donations, instead of merely courting big donors. Eliminating matching funds will all but guarantee that candidates focus even more on donors who are able to contribute large amounts of money each cycle.

Instead we should be looking at how to make money play less of a role in the system—not more. That is why I am a proud cosponsor of H.R. 1404, the Fair Elections Now Act. This bill would shift a candidate's focus to receiving a large number of small donations from constituents in their states or districts. This would level the playing field and give small donors—working families, seniors, and others—as much influence as the 1% and mega corporations. If H.R. 1404 were passed, it would go a long way towards righting what is so wrong about our process today.

Rather than considering H.R. 3463 today, we should be discussing how to stop the avalanche of state laws that will have the effect of suppressing voter turnout—laws promoted under the guise of eliminating voter fraud—a virtually non-existent problem. According to the Brennan Center for Justice, recent changes to voting requirements could result in disenfranchising more than five million legitimate, eligible voters this cycle. That number is more than the margin of victory in two of the last three presidential elections.

The various initiatives proposed—whether they are photo identification requirements, the reduction or elimination of same-day, early or absentee voting opportunities, or placing onerous hurdles on voter registration—all disproportionately impact vulnerable voting populations that we should actively be encouraging to vote. Instead, over and over we see state legislatures doing whatever they can to stop these groups from turning out at the polls.

It is our duty as members of Congress to investigate those practices and ensure that